GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1345
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000
RELAXATION IN VISA FOR PAKISTANI NATIONAL
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted unilateral relaxation in visa regimes for the Pakistani nationals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Pakistan has also made reciprocal gesture in response thereto;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) whether the unilateral relaxation in the visa regimes for the Pakistani nationals has been grossly misused;
(g) if so, the facts in this regard;
(h) whether the Government propose to review their decision of relaxation in the visa regimes for the Pakistani nationals; and
(i) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b): The unilateral relaxations made during 1997-1999 in the Visa Regime for Pakistani nationals include one year multi-entry EPR(exempted from police reporting) visa to the bonafide Pak businessmen recommended by SAARC Chamber of Commerce of Pakistan with the stipulation that stay during each visit will not exceed three months; EPR visitor visa to young (up to the age of 12 years) and elderly (70 years and above), very well known and reputed Pak journalists, media personalities, very well known and reputed writers on selective basis, cultural groups, artists etc.

(c)to(e): Government are not aware of any specific steps taken by Pakistan regarding its visa policy for Indian nationals.

(f)&(g): Instances have come to the notice where Pak nationals have not gone back after the expiry of the Visa and are not traceable.

(h): Yes, Sir.

(i): Does not arise.